



**HMM-264
(REIN)
Black Knights
MAY 2007**

In the Downward Slope"

From the Commanding

Officer

"Black Knight" families & friends,

I hope that this finds everyone well as we are now past the 4 month mark of the deployment with the end in sight. The "Black Knights" have been very busy during the last couple of months. We have operated off the coast of eastern Africa and in the Persian Gulf while conducting exercises in Kenya, Qatar, and Kuwait. These exercises have focused on the opportunity to refine our operational skills, while enhancing our ability to work effectively with and strengthen the longstanding military relationships with our host countries. During these exercises, the squadron has supported the 26th MEU and has conducted a multitude of ground and aviation training in unfamiliar and challenging environments. We have focused on training all of our Marines in order to build diversity and flexibility in the squadron which will serve us well for the remainder of this deployment and future operations. You can look for news releases on the 26th MEU website for specifics and more detailed information concerning the exercises.

A few of the highlights have included: the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) demonstration involving the ACE in support of US and Qatari forces during "Eastern Maverick 2007", Rotary Wing and Fixed Wing Close Air Support for our Harriers, Cobras, and Hueys in support of the Battalion Landing Team 2/2 in training and maintaining proficiency for Forward Air Controllers (FACs) in both Qatar and Kuwait, convoy escort, live fire ordnance evolutions, desert flight operations, flight leadership evaluations, and multiple Aircraft Commander check rides for all communities. The pilots and aircrews have come along way in enhancing their skills since our departure!

The Marine Air Control Group (MACG) Marines have also done a fantastic job providing procedural control of our aircraft throughout the training areas in which we fly: from the ship across the shoreline (ASE), controlling aircraft in the terminal areas and airfields (MMT), and providing security for our MEU Command Element, MEU CO, and airfields (LAAD). I would be remiss if I did not mention the back bone of the squadron, our maintainers and Marines from MALS-26 and MALS-14. They have been working incredibly hard to keep the aircraft and equipment safe and in good condition with parts and equipment readily available. Superb effort! The Admin, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics, Safety, and Medical Departments have also been hard at work and are keeping the squadron working like a "well oiled machine" in supporting everything that we do. They ensure that our Marines and Sailors are equipped with the right tools to meet our mission. Bottom line: All of the Marines are doing a great job and staying focused on our mission. I could not be more



Phrog with Escorts

**Black Knight
ts May 200**



Skid kids with Doc in Kenya

I would also like to give you a quick update on what to expect for the Black Knight's immediate future. We are now enroute to our final training exercise which will be followed by pulling into port in order to wash down our aircraft, vehicles and equipment. The wash down is significant in that it signifies the end of the deployment, and ensures that our gear is cleaned, and that we are not bringing anything back into the US that could cause harm or damage. This is focused on agricultural concerns and is a standard procedure for all units returning to the states. Upon completion of the wash down the MEU will then sail west in order to offload our Marines and Sailors once we arrive off the North Carolina coast. Currently, we are scheduled to arrive in early July. There will be more information shortly outlining more specific information on our return.

We will be sending our Advance Party (ADVON) home sometime between 1-3 June in order to prepare for the squadron's return. This is unusually early for the ADVON Marines to return, but due to airlift availability and cost issues we have no choice. This means that our ADVON Marines will return to MCAS New River and Cherry Point early and will complete post deployment requirements followed by a leave period in order to return to prepare for the main body arrival. The Key Volunteers will have updated information on the exact date and times of arrival as it is available. I encourage you all to welcome them home like you will the main body soon after! I know that they are excited to get back and there is no doubt that they will do a great job for the squadron.

The decision was made recently for the "Black Knights" to remain a CH-46 squadron for one more deployment. Currently, we will chop back to the 26th MEU with new detachments in late March or early April of 2008. HMM-264(REIN) will then make one more deployment as an ACE prior to transitioning to the MV-22. I know that there are a lot of Marines here glad to know the squadron's fate with so much loyalty to our beloved "Battle Phrog" and what it has represented to Marine Aviation for over 40 years!

Overall, the Black Knights continue to do a remarkable job making our mission happen every day, meeting every task and challenge that comes our way no matter how big or small! I can honestly say, however, that we all would rather be back in North Carolina with our families. As you know, your Marines are dedicated professionals that know how important our role is in the Global War on Terrorism and what lies in the balance if do not win! You should be proud of your Marines in all that they do. They not only represent the "Black Knights" and our Corps well but serve our country when it needs us most! Semper Fi!

Semper ACE

LtCol M. G. McCoy
Commanding Officer, HMM-264 (Rein)



Over the Deck

Black Knight
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SgtMaj's

Wisdom

Black Knight Family members!
Your Marines and Sailors amaze me every single day. They are as professional and as hard working as any Marines and Sailors that I have ever encountered. I am extremely proud to be associated with these young men and women, and I am extremely humbled because they sacrifice so much for their country. I also understand and would like to thank each of you for *your* sacrifice. You continue to keep everything going at the home front. Your unselfishness, your dedication, your loyalty and love are what sets you apart from so many. We serve overseas and you serve at home. That makes each and everyone of you "Great Americans". We look forward to seeing you all very soon. For now we still have a mission to accomplish. It's important that we keep our head in the game and focus on today. Take care and God bless you all.

Semper Fidelis,
SgtMaj Frank Corona

Recent Promotions

CAPT LECLAIRE	CAPT WILKERSON
SSGT HICKS	SSGT LEVASSEUR
SGT ASHWORTH	CPL SULLIVAN
CPL AMERSON	CPL LEEFLANG
CPL LOVATO	CPL LYNCH (Merit.)
CPL HOOD	CPL MCGREGOR
LCPL CRUZ	LCPL HYBERTSON
LCPL MANNELLA	LCPL PARSONS



Brown out in Qatar



Love at first sight?

Recent Reenlistments

MSGT GOUDY	GYSGT BOGACZYK
GYSGT YOUNGBERG	GYSGT IVEY
GYSGT MURRAY	SSGT LEVASSEUR
SSGT LEBRON	SSGT GAY
SSGT HALL	SSGT ANGELL
SSGT GOODWIN	SGT HARRIS
SGT JOHNSON W.P.	SGT RAMOS
SGT VANN	CPL JORDAN

To be able to continue to do a great job back on the home front and I cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work and dedication to making the deployment easier for many of the Black Knight families. I would also like to say thank you for all of the spouses and their support during this deployment as well. You have endured the hardship of taking care of your families with your Marines and Sailors forward deployed and have done it so well. I understand the apprehension and frustrations of deployments only too well and can tell you that after many deployments you all have handled this one better then I have seen in the past. I truly appreciate your support and patience as we all look forward to returning to our families in the near future. With that said, 11 May was the annual Military Spouse Appreciation Day and want to let you know how much the "Black Knights" appreciate you and what you represent! Keep up the good work!



Upcoming Events:

19 May McCoy	Run for the Wounded Warriors	POC: Carol
	Squadron Picnic (Onslow Beach)	
30 May Piper	Reunion Brief by 26th MEU at Marston Pavillion	POC: Anna
1-3 Jun	Advance Party Arrives	
14 Jun	Reunion Brief (Cherry Pt)	POC: Liz Nelson
21 Jun	Reunion Brief (New River)	POC: Anna Piper
30 Jun - 2 Jul	Main Body Returns	
3 Jul - 6 Jul	4th of July Holiday 96	(0800 3 Jul - 1800 6 Jul)
9-13 Jul	Warrior Transition Briefs (spouses encouraged to attend). (Time and location: TBD)	

HMM-264(REIN) Website: http://www.usmc.mil/26thmeu/MSE%20Webs/HMM_264_WEB/ACE.htm

HMM-264(REIN) Phone Message: **(877) 817-7322** or **(910) 451-8780**
after reaching recording,
dial extension **63** for HMM 264(REIN)

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